

U. S. CODE CONG. AND ADMIN. NEWS

(Pages 527, 528,  
529, & 530)

Public Buildings Act of 1959

Sec. 2. No public building shall be constructed except by the Administrator, who shall construct such public building in accordance with this Act.

Sec. 7. (a) In order to insure the equitable distribution of public buildings throughout the United States with due regard for the comparative urgency of need for such buildings, except as provided in section 4, no appropriation shall be made to construct any public building or to acquire any building to be used as a public building involving an expenditure in excess of \$100,000, and no appropriation shall be made to alter any public building involving an expenditure in excess of \$200,000, if such construction, alteration, or acquisition has not been approved by resolutions adopted by the Committee on Public Works of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, and such approval has not been rescinded as provided in subsection (c) of this section. For the purpose of securing consideration of such approval the Administrator shall transmit to Congress a prospectus of the proposed project, including (but not limited to) -

(1) a brief description of the building to be constructed, altered, or acquired under this Act;

(2) the location of the project, and an estimate of the maximum cost of the project;

(3) a comprehensive plan for providing space for all Government officers and employees in the locality of the proposed project, having due regard for suitable space which may continue to be available in existing Government-owned buildings and in rented buildings;

(4) a statement by the Administrator that suitable space owned by the Government is not available and that suitable rental space is not available at a price commensurate with that to be afforded through the proposed action; and

(5) a statement of rents and other housing costs currently being paid by the Government for Federal agencies to be housed in the building to be constructed, altered, or acquired.

(b) The estimated maximum cost of any project approved under this section as set forth in any prospectus may be increased by an amount equal to the percentage increase, if any, as determined by the Administrator, in construction or alteration costs, as the case may be, from the date of transmittal of such prospectus to Congress, but in no event shall the increase authorized by this subsection exceed 10 per centum of such estimated maximum cost.

(c) In the case of any project approved for construction, alteration, or acquisition by the Committees on Public Works of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, respectively, in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, for which an appropriation has not been made within one year after the date of such approval, either the Committee on Public Works of the Senate or the Committee on Public Works of the House of Representatives, may rescind, by resolution, its approval of such project at any time thereafter before such an appropriation has been made.

(d) The Committees of Public Works of the Senate and of the House of Representatives, respectively, shall not approve any project for construction, alteration, or acquisition under subsection (a) of this section whenever there are thirty or more projects the estimated maximum cost of each of which is in excess of \$100,000 which have been approved for more than one year under subsection (a) but for which appropriations have not been made, until there has been a rescission of approval under subsection (c) or appropriations are made which result in there being less than thirty such projects.

Sec. 10. (a) The Administrator, whenever he determines it to be necessary, is authorized to employ, by contract or otherwise, and without regard to the Classification Act of 1949, as amended, or to the civil service laws, rules, and regulations, or to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes, the services of established architectural or engineering corporations, firms, or individuals, to the extent he may require such services for any public building authorized to be constructed or altered under this Act.

(b) No corporation, firm, or individual shall be employed under authority of subsection (a) on a permanent basis.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section the Administrator shall be responsible for all construction authorized by this Act, including the interpretation of construction contracts, the approval of materials and workmanship supplied pursuant to a construction contract, approval of changes in the construction contract, certification of vouchers for payments due the contractor, and final settlement of the contract.

Sec. 11. (a) The Administrator shall submit to Congress each January, promptly after the convening of Congress, a report showing the location, space, cost, and status, of each public building the construction, alteration, or acquisition of which is to be under authority of this Act and which was uncompleted as of the date of the last preceding report made under this Act.

Sec. 13. As used in this Act--

(1) The term "public building" means . . . . . but shall not include any such buildings and construction projects:

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.
- E. on or used in connection with river, harbor, flood control, reclamation or power projects, or for chemical manufacturing or development projects, or for nuclear production, research, or development projects